Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Second Round of Applications Due

The Department of Health and the Public Works Board are accepting applications for funding of water system projects for the 1998 Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) application cycle. Applications are due by July 1, 1998.

This will be the second round of funding since Congress reauthorized the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in August 1996. A key provision of the 1996 reauthorization included the establishment of a DWSRF and the initial year's appropriation of \$1.275 billion for states to build their DWSRF Programs. Each state received an allocation from the national fund in the form of a Capitalization Grant. Washington's appropriation for federal fiscal year (FFY) 1997 was \$31,145,900. For FFY 1998, the state expects to receive \$19,169,100. The primary activities that the DWSRF will fund include: 1) establishment of a program to provide loans to water systems for capital improvements aimed at increasing public health protection and compliance with the SDWA; 2) new SDWA programs authorized by Congress; 3) programs such as source protection, water system planning, and technical assistance to small systems; and 4) DWSRF program administration.

Public workshops held in May focused on the DWSRF application and guidelines for the 1998 funding cycle and regulations for the DWSRF Program.

Copies of the application, guidelines, and draft rule are available upon request by contacting Chris Gagnon, DOH DWSRF at (360) 236-3095. The application and guidelines can be accessed on the Web at http://www.crab.wa.gov/pwtf. The draft rule can be accessed at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/public.htm. Statutory deadline to adopt a rule is January 1, 1999. Public comments on the rule will be accepted in writing through June 30, 1998 and can be sent to the mailing address below.

Applications will be considered submitted if hand-delivered by 5:00 p.m. on July 1, 1998, or postmarked by July 1, 1998, and mailed, at a minimum, first class. Faxed applications will not be accepted. Applications with original signatures, and four copies, must be submitted to the address shown below:

Mailing Address

Washington State Department of Health Drinking Water State Revolving Fund PO Box 47822 Olympia, WA 98504-7822 Hand Delivery Address

Washington State Department of Health Drinking Water State Revolving Fund 7171 Cleanwater Lane, Building 3 Tumwater, WA 98501

The DWSRF Program is jointly administered by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the Washington State Public Works Board (Board), and the Board's partner, the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

In the initial 1997 funding cycle, the DWSRF Program received 88 applications from water systems to fund system improvements. Fifty-eight applicants will be offered loans totaling approximately \$25 million. Technical Assistance workshops held in April briefed the applicants on loan requirements and timelines. The Capitalization Grant for the project loan fund was awarded in June, and loan offers are expected to be drawn up this summer. Applicants will have 90 days from the date the loan offer is made to complete contract negotiations and sign the loan contract, and will have 36 months to complete the project.



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Ouestions regarding your system or whether your proposed project might qualify for DWSRF assistance can be directed to one of the three regional offices below.

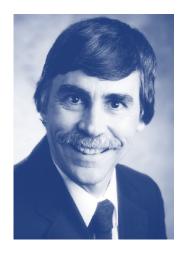
Eastern Regional Office 1500 W 4th Ave, Ste 305 Spokane, WA 99204 (509) 456-3115

Northwest Regional Office 1511 3rd Ave, Ste 719 Seattle, WA 98101 (206) 464-7670

Southwest Regional Office PO Box 47823 Olympia, WA 98504-7823 (360) 664-0768

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Ietter from the Director...

Assuring that the public has access to a safe, adequate and reliable supply of drinking water is one of six key strategic initiatives recently endorsed by Department of Health Secretary Bruce Miyahara and his executive management team.

In adopting this as a key initiative, the department acknowledges the importance of clean, safe drinking water to the health and economic well being of the state. The fact that 4.9 million people

in our state drink water from more than 16,000 public water systems makes this a key public health protection program for the Department of Health.

The major objective of this initiative is to concentrate efforts where there are major public health issues, areas Gov. Gary Locke has identified as key issues for his administration, or where attention of the public or key stakeholders is already focused. The department will use these opportunities to strengthen its ties with existing or potential partners, communicate key public health or regulatory messages to important audiences, and build support for the necessary resources to effectively protect drinking water.

The Drinking Water Strategic Initiative Action Plan focuses on:

- Non-community water systems;
- Nitrate contamination in public or individual water supplies;
- Implementation of key provisions in the federal Safe Drinking Water Act;
- Salmon recovery efforts as they relate to water conservation and reclaimed water use.

Throughout all of these areas is a concerted effort to clearly communicate key public health messages to target audiences. Policy makers and members of the public must stop taking for granted the provision of safe drinking water, and begin to more fully understand the increasingly complex issues facing public water supply providers in their efforts to deliver safe, adequate and reliable drinking water. Janice Keller-Saul, the department's recently hired Environmental Health Programs Communications Manager, will be a key resource in these efforts. In addition, the department's Water Supply Advisory Committee formed a new communications subcommittee at its April meeting to work with the department on these important issues.

The strategic initiative effort is a new approach for the Department of Health. The development of all six department strategic initiatives has been a major effort of the Secretary's Office and executive management team. While department Secretary Bruce Miyahara will be gone by the time you read this (see article on page 8), the strategic initiative process has generated a great deal of department-wide energy and focus on our public health mission.

As key partners in the drinking water program, you will be hearing more about the Drinking Water Strategic Initiative Action Plan as we begin implementing portions of it this summer. For a more complete overview of the action plan, please visit our home page on the World Wide Web at: http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw, or call the Drinking Water Program office at 1-800-521-0323 to request a copy.

Sincerely,

Green Grunenfelder

Director

Legislative Update

The 1998 session of the Washington Legislature ended in March, with very little significant water legislation enacted, with the exception of measures related to water resource planning and measures to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Agency request legislation was introduced that would have modified the water system operating permit fee structure. That bill—SB 6646—was the result of a year's work by the members of the Water Supply Advisory Committee and DOH staff. It would have consolidated some existing fees for service, reallocated costs across water system sizes, and provided an additional noncompliance fee as an incentive for noncomplying systems to bring themselves into compliance with health-related requirements. Although the bill received broad support in testimony at a hearing of the Senate Energy and Utilities Committee, it did not move out of the Committee.

The Legislature enacted HB 2514, a watershed planning bill, and provided approximately \$3 million to Ecology for planning grants under that legislation. The bill outlined a process for local watershed planning that would include provisions for drinking water as one of its elements. Ecology is now in the process of developing and implementing the details of the bill.

DOH received funding from the Legislature for a staff position to support the watershed planning under HB 2514, particularly in the areas of conservation and demand forecasting. DOH also received funding for a continuation of its activities related to reclaimed water. Both water conservation and the expanded use of reclaimed water are expected to be major components of watershed plans developed under HB 2514.

The Legislature also funded approximately \$30 million in projects related to fish and wildlife habitat protection, restoration, and improvement. The funding is directly related to proposed listings of various species of fish under the federal Endangered Species Act, which will require statewide plans to protect the species in order to avoid federal intrusion into state resource management.

For questions, contact Dave Monthie, (360) 236-3091.

Water Supply Advisory Committee (WSAC) Continues Work

by Skip Richards, Chair

At its regularly scheduled January and April meetings this year, the WSAC continued to address several elements of its work plan stemming from its 1996 Report to the Legislature. At the January meeting we completed a proposal to restructure the operating permit fee and to consolidate it with other, periodic fees. Despite testimony from several WSAC members, the bill based upon our proposal, SB 6646, was not reported out of the Senate Energy and Utilities Committee. In January we also addressed the Real Estate Disclosure form modifications, regarding buyer notification of type and condition of water supply, proposed for last legislative session but deferred by the Washington Association of Realtors. Working during the interim, WSAC committee members and DOH staff achieved agreement with the Realtors on the language, but the bill could not be submitted in time to get a hearing. DOH Secretary Miyahara highlighted the January meeting by presenting an outline of drinking water aspects of the state's strategic health initiative.

In April, we heard from DOH staff regarding their list of proposed action steps to implement the Drinking Water Division's strategic initiative (see director's letter); discussed DOH's role in the implementation of the 1998 watershed planning bill, HB 2514; reviewed key aspects of DOH's implementation of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act; discussed issues such as the State Revolving Fund program, the update of the Group A WAC, and the Attorney General's Opinion regarding limitations on the use of exempt wells for sub-divisions. To pursue implementation of our work plan, we formed a subcommittee to address barriers to the formation of Satellite Management Agencies, and a subcommittee to provide input to DOH's implementation of their strategic initiative, primarily focusing on the communications and public relations aspects. Rather than re-submitting funding legislation next session, we decided to have the funding subcommittee continue refining the details of our proposal, while building a better understanding with key legislators, and the Governor's office, regarding the funding issue. The WSAC meets again on July 30.

Consumer Confidence Reports to start in 1999

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) requirement will make Group A public water systems produce an annual water quality report for their bill-paying customers. The report will be a communication tool for improving purveyor-customer relations. The federal rule is scheduled to become final in August 1998, and the first CCR will be due in October 1999.

The state is currently developing a workplan to adopt the final CCR rule and implement a program to help purveyors comply with the rule

For more information, contact Donna Freier at (360) 236-3162 or dsf0303@hub.doh.wa.gov

Preliminary Schedule for the 1999 EPA Needs Survey

Nov 1997- May 1998 Survey Design

April 1998 States Review & Correct Inventories

May 1998-Sept 1998
Conduct Inventory Verifications

Aug 1998-Nov 1998

OMB Review of Final Survey
Approach, Final

Questionnaire, and Table of
Codes

Nov 1998-Dec 1998 Training to States

Jan 1999 - Sept 1999 Data Collection and Questionnaire analysis

Oct 1999-Mar 2000 Modeling, Statistical Analysis and Report Preparation

Apr 2000-July 2000 OMB Review

Oct 4, 2000 Final Report to Congress

Feb 2, 2001 Statutory Deadline for Report

EPA Begins 1999 Needs Survey

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that it will begin surveying water systems in January 1999, as part of its schedule for completing the next National Drinking Water Needs Survey.

Approximately 100 water systems in Washington are expected to participate.

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires EPA to conduct a Drinking Water Needs Survey every four years. The results of the Survey are used to allot Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) monies among states and as part of the allotment formula for the Native American DWSRF set-aside. Washington's allocation for SFY 97-99 is approximately \$50 million.

The first (1995) Drinking Water Needs Survey was submitted to Congress in January 1997. The survey approach included gathering information from all large systems (serving over 50,000 population), and a sample of smaller systems that was used in a model of system needs. Approximately 100 Washington systems submitted information on their needs.

The 1995 Survey identified over \$4 billion in improvements needed by the year 2014 for Washington's federally-regulated (Group A) water systems in order to properly protect public health. \$2.3 billion was needed for immediate improvements to fix problems or to meet current federal or state requirements, and another \$1.7 billion in improvements is expected to be required by the year 2014 to replace aging infrastructure or to meet new regulatory requirements.

DOH will be coordinating the 1999 survey of Washington water systems. The EPA approach is expected to be similar to the 1995 survey. Future Water Tap articles will contain additional details as the EPA schedule develops.

For more information, contact Dave Monthie (360) 236-3091.

Local Health Jurisdictions Sign on for Third Party Sanitary Surveys



The response to the upcoming Third Party Sanitary Survey Program from Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) around the state has

been very positive. Twenty-two local health jurisdictions have indicated their desire to work with the Drinking Water Program and be the sole provider of sanitary surveys for smaller public water systems in their counties. Only five jurisdictions have said a definite "no" and the remaining six LHJs are still discussing the possibilities of partnering with DOH.

Under the proposed program, these LHJs will be responsible for conducting sanitary surveys of most small community water systems and most non-community systems. DOH will retain responsibility for surveying all systems having or required to have a certified operator (generally surface water systems and systems serving more than 100 connections). Each LHJ and DOH will meet at least annually to establish the priority systems for inspection for the upcoming 12month period. DOH will remain available to assist the LHJ in the more complicated surveys of systems under enforcement or other special conditions. Although the LHJ may be involved in some follow up activities, formal enforcement responsibilities will remain with DOH.

This program will be phased in around the state, starting in July in a few counties. While most LHJs plan to have their own staff qualified as sanitary surveyors, some may enter into contracts with independent, state-qualified surveyors to help with the peak loads. More than 35 individuals have expressed interest in the program and, once qualified by DOH, will be available to conduct surveys in those counties where the LHJ has chosen not to conduct the surveys, or to assist the LHJ.

For more information contact Dan Sander (509) 456-2457.

Rulemaking in Progress on System Requirements and Fees

DOH held two workshops in Spokane and Bellevue in late May with over 300 attending to discuss proposed revisions to the State Board of Health's regulations for Group A public water systems (chapter 246-290 WAC).

Some of the topics discussed included:

- Requirements to take appropriate action after loss of pressure
- Water system planning requirements
- Cross-connection control
- Reliability
- Water demand

DOH requested that interested parties submit written comments on the proposed changes by June 15. The next step in the rulemaking process will be to review the workshop and written comments and ensure the final WAC proposal incorporates those comments. Within the next few months DOH staff will also conclude the cost/benefit, "least burdensome" and other analyses now required of significant rule proposals. DOH intends to brief the State Board of Health in August, and formally adopt the rule in September.

In a separate rulemaking process, DOH convened a Rule Adoption Hearing on April 22, 1998, to take public comment on the Drinking Water Program's proposal to increase the fees for various services it performs under WAC 246-290-990 and operator certification services it provides under WAC 246-292-160. The Program proposed a 4.05% increase, because under the current fee schedule the Program collects only about 50% of the revenue it needs to provide the services. The proposal passed and the new fees will become effective by June 30, 1998. Though the increase was the maximum amount permissible under this year's fiscal growth factor established under Initiative 601, the additional revenue that the increase will generate is less than 5% of the program's current deficit for providing services for fees.

If you have questions about either of these rules, contact Tom Jaenicke at (360) 236-3094, or Email: THJ0303@hub.doh.wa.gov

DOH Considers New Option for Source Monitoring

If you are a Group A Community or Nontransient Noncommunity water system, you may have questions about the survey you recently received in the mail. The survey has been distributed to help DOH evaluate the interest of water systems in a new program for better source monitoring quality. This voluntary program would present several DOH-provided options, including DOH collection of a water system's source monitoring samples. The goal of all the options is to make it easier for water systems to meet the source monitoring regulations. This program will only be developed with input from water systems and if the survey results indicate enough statewide interest. If you did not receive your survey or have questions, contact Brett Freier at (360) 236-3136 or by e-mail at brf0303@hub.doh.wa.gov.

The survey was mailed later than anticipated, so please disregard our request to respond by May 20th and send the surveys back to DOH at your earliest convenience.



EPA Makes Lead and Copper Monitoring Priority for Enforcement

EPA has announced that the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) will be a priority program for compliance enforcement in 1998-99. All Group A Community and Non-Transient Non-Community water systems are required under the federal LCR to conduct monitoring for lead and copper. To date, approximately 72 percent of these systems in Washington State have conducted at least one round of monitoring.

Seven hundred systems failed to submit their monitoring results by specific due dates, outlined in reminder letters sent by DOH in 1997. These systems have been reported to EPA as violating the LCR. EPA will send letters to these systems over the next year offering a 30 day window to complete the monitoring. Systems that fail to respond to this letter will be issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) by DOH, which initiates the formal enforcement process. Water systems that have not yet conducted an initial round of sampling should act now to avoid enforcement actions.

For questions call Chris McCord at (360) 236-3135.

Water systems that have monitored should check their records to determine if they are current and if necessary, plan to conduct another round of sampling in 1998.

GWI Program Moves Forward

274 water systems have been identified with potential GWI (groundwater under the direct influence of surface water) sources A great deal of progress has been made in implementing the GWI program in Washington since the DOH September 1997 workshops. GWI refers to "groundwater sources under the direct influence of surface water." The federal Surface Water Treatment Rule that was enacted in 1989 requires states to determine which public water system groundwater sources may be directly affected by surface water intrusion. A GWI source is potentially at risk from contamination by disease causing organisms such as Giardia lamblia and Cryptosporidium.

So far, over half of the 274 water systems identified with "potential GWI" sources have begun a monitoring program to determine the extent of direct surface water influence on their source(s). Additional contacts and meetings are being held with water system purveyors with the goal of having all of these systems monitoring by July of this year.

Washington has adopted a Four-Step process to make GWI determinations. The first step involved listing of "potential GWI" sources based on type of source and construction features. All springs, infiltration galleries, and Ranney wells have been placed on this list. All shallow wells with a depth or screened interval of less than 50 feet from the ground surface, which are located within 200 horizontal feet of a surface water are also included on the potential GWI list.

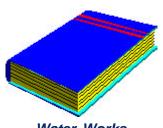
Step 2 involves monitoring groundwater and

nearby surface water quality parameters so that a correlation can be made between the two sources. Springs will be monitored independently in most cases. The result of this step will be a monitoring report that provides information necessary to determine if there is a hydraulic connection between the ground and surface water. Several of these six month reports have been received by DOH and staff are busy evaluating them through use of specialized computer software.

If a hydraulic connection is established, Step 3 of the process, in most cases, will involve monitoring the groundwater source for biological indicators of surface water using the microscopic particulate analysis (MPA). A handful of systems with existing water quality monitoring data have initiated MPA sampling. The Washington State Department of Health Laboratory in Seattle is gearing up to process an expected increase in the volume of MPA samples.

Statewide, five systems have sources determined to be under the direct influence of surface water. These purveyors are in the process of designing treatment systems or implementing watershed control/monitoring plans (step 4). Options may include filtration, avoidance of filtration, or a "limited alternative to filtration."

For questions regarding implementation of the GWI determination program contact Jim McCauley at (360) 586-5209.



Water Works Design Manual

New Draft Available
by June 30, 1998
for Public Review and Comment.
Comments will be taken during
the month of July.
The document will be
finalized by the end of August with
adoption to take place during
September 1998.

For questions, contact Simon Tung at (360) 236-3132

Education/Training Calendar

<u>Date</u>	Topics	Location	Contact	Phone #
Jun 26	Essentials of Electric Motors	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Jul 9-10	Hydrant Install O&R	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Jul 30-31	Hydrant Install O&R	Richland	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Aug 20-21	Hydrant Install O&R	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Aug 26-28	Water Works Basics	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Sept 1-2	Emergency Planning	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Sept 1-3	Water Cert Exam Review	Tacoma	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Sept 9-11	CCControl Specialist Cert Rev	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Sept 16-18	Wastewater Cert Exam Rev	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Sept 15-17	Water Cert Exam Rev	Richland	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Sept 22-24	Water Cert Exam Rev	Everett	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Sept 22-24	CCControl Specialist Cert Rev	Wenatchee	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Oct 5-8	ASDWA Annual Conference	Colorado	ASDWA	(202) 293-7655

Tap Tips

by: Chris McMeen It's 3:00 am and the shrill sound of your emergency beeper pops you out of bed. You are the Operator on-call, the last stop, the final word, the midnight pipe patcher. You check the phone answering service and learn its a main break down on Third Street; water is slowly filling the basement of Mr. Big's mansion, and tempers are on the rise. Ok, you are thinking fast, "I'll isolate and repair - no problem." You pull out the base map and find the key valve you need to close. But you can't find it...and then you remember...they paved this road five years ago...and "ARGH! The valve box is several inches under concrete!" Ok, you are still thinking, not quite as fast, "I'll go upstream." This one you find, and your pulse slows a little. Then with the smooth confidence of a problem solver you start to turn the valve wrench - but it doesn't turn - and you are thinking about your grandma's old house in this neighborhood - must of been maybe 80 years old...wonder how old this valve is?

Don't let this happen to you! It's time to gear up that *annual valve exercise program* and find out what you can count on when you need to. It's a great way to combine routine maintenance with visual inspection, before your storage tank is dry, your system is out of water, and Mr. Big is asking tough questions.

Just like the rest of us, valves that don't get enough exercise, particularly the older ones, can "freeze;" corrosion of and around key components can prevent closing when the need arises. When exercising a valve that is difficult to close and open it is a good idea to work it fully open and fully closed two or more times. If it is still sticky consider opening a nearby hydrant or blow-off to flush out the valve. Counting the number of turns may verify, or in cases of less precise historical information, reveal the size of the valve, so note the count.

The valve exercise program can also be a valve locate program, and a valve-box cleanout program; where else can you get three programs for the price of one?

Dr. Drip...

Dear Dr. Drip:

I am the superintendent of a water system that provides water to a large residential population with well-landscaped lawns, yards and gardens. During the summer the demand for water more than doubles due to increased outdoor water use. In fact, people in our community use so much water during the summer that the water ouzel nests in the town square and water buffalo roam the streets. The water supply is limited but our community needs more water! Should I hire a water witch or can you help?

Signed, Watersick Waterworks

Dear: Watersick Waterworks:

Does your community actually need more water or do they need to use what they have more efficiently? If your community implements simple conservation measures it can significantly improve water use efficiency, lower water & power bills, extend the life of existing developed resources, reduce water & wastewater treatment costs, increase instream flow for fish, and protect the environment. All of that just through conservation! Specific steps your community can take to promote water conservation are:

- 1. Use conservation oriented water rates to send the proper price signals to customers (the more you use, the more it costs, the more you pay!)
- 2. Encourage the use of low water use landscaping (contact your county extension office, local water utility or local nursery for more information).
- 3. Advocate the use of efficient irrigation practices by watering in the early morning or evening, not over watering, properly adjusting sprinklers to minimize waste.

This information and other water saving tips are available through four DOH brochures.

Dr. Drip

Water saving guidelines promoting ways to improve water use efficiency are available through four DOH brochures...

Guideline #1

32 Ways to Reduce Water Waste

Guideline #2

Find Out How to Save Water Indoors

Guideline #3

Timely Tips for Saving Water Outdoors

Guideline #4

A Guide to Understanding Conservation Oriented Water Rates (used to educate customers when rates are being changed).

Brochures are available free of charge (500 copies max.) and/ or a camera ready original can be provided for additional printing. Contact Shelly Smith at (360) 236-3151.

Department of Health Secretary Resigns

Department of Health Secretary Bruce Miyahara announced his resignation from the Department in March. His last day with the Department was May 31.

In his resignation message to staff, Miyahara reflected on the five years he has led the Department of Health, the challenges he has worked through, and his desire to move on to new opportunities in the public health field.

Gov. Gary Locke's office is actively seeking a new Secretary for the department, and has targeted having a replacement selected by early June.

Miyahara has provided strong leadership to the department, and has been a strong supporter of the division of drinking water and the utilities that work hard to provide our state residents with safe, adequate and reliable drinking water. He has no immediate plans other than spending time with his family.

Success At Last

After a long history of problems, the Selleck Water Company recently signed their system over to a combined Kangley/Selleck homeowners group. This combined homeowners group along with individual and small Group B systems in the area will be able to hook up to a new regional ground water source to be established by King County. The formation of this new regional system will eliminate two small surface water sources that have been struggling for years to provide a reliable supply of safe drinking water to the two small communities of Selleck and Kangley.

In addition to King County's financial help, it was EPA's efforts to enforce the Surface Water Treatment requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act which resulted in the combining of the two small communities, making completion of the regional ground water system feasible.

Additional funding from King County, Rural Community Assistance Corporation and the Department of Health's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund will enable this regional system to become a reality.

Thanks to all who have worked together to find a resolution to this long standing problem. For more information contact John Aden at (360) 236-3157.

In This Issue:

The following individuals have contributed to the production of this issue of *The Water Tap*: John Aden, Tom Jaenicke, Dave Monthie, Chris Gagnon, Skip Richards (WSAC), Brett Freier, Donna Freier, Janice Keller-Saul, Jim McCauley, Chris McCord, Chris McMeen, Dan Sander, Simon Tung, Jim Skalski, Judy Sides, Editor. Comments and questions are welcome. Please write: Editor, the Water Tap, Department of Health, Division of Drinking Water, P.O. Box 47822, Olympia, WA 98504-7822 or email to DWINFO@hub.doh.wa.gov

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